(ii) The press at Shimla to be modernized and converted into a production-cum-training centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 219 lakh;

(iii) To privatize Government of India Text Book Press, Chandigarh, with condition that employees will continue to be in service till completion of their balance service period;

(iv) Government of India Press, Gangtok to be handed over to the State Government of Sikkim, with its present liabilities and assets on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Criticism of Power Incentive Scheme

*166. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had criticized the Power Incentive Scheme, in so far as it did not benefit the consumer but the importer of power equipments/appliances only, by way of reduction in customs tariff; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto by way of reviewing and revising the power policy so as to benefit the consumer, directly?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. As a matter of fact, there is no "Power Incentive Scheme". However, under the Mega Power Policy announced in 1995 and modified in 1998, for large projects, benefits of custom duty and excise duty waivers are available. The question was referred to Planning Commission also who have responded that they are unaware of any Planning Commission document in which such a criticism was made. Under the Mega Power Policy, organizations like NTPC Ltd. have set up projects with exemption of custom duty and excise duty and the entire benefit of reduced tariff as a result of such waiver has been transferred to consumer.

(b) In light of (a) above, the question does not arise.